

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 OIC-04 AEC-11 DRC-01 ACDA-19

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R 131659Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5530

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13264

SHAPE FOR INTAF: VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL: GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: MBFR: PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS

REF: (A) STATE 222697,(B) STATE 222698,(C) USNATO 5439

1. SUMMARY. WE DISCUSSED REF (A) WITH BRAITHWAITE OF
FCO ON NOV 12. HE SAID HMG IS NOT COMMITTED TO ITS

DRAFT AND WILL WELCOME AMENDMENTS, DELETIONS OR EVEN

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NEW DRAFTS. BUT UK DOES BELIEVE THAT BEST APPROACH IS

TO SEEK INNOCUOUS CONSTRAINTS WHICH SHOW GOOD FAITH OF PARTIES, INVOLVE EUROPEAN ALLIES AND ARE DESIGNED TO BE EASY TO NEGOTIATE SO THAT EMPHASIS OF MBFR WILL NOT BE DIVERTED FROM MAIN TASK OF NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REF (A) WE CALLED ON BRAITHWAITE OF FCO ON NOV 12 TO CONVEY US COMMENTS ON UK AND FRG PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINT DRAFTS. WE INDICATED THAT US WOULD SOON BE PRESENTING US VIEWS ON STABILIZING MEASURES TO ALLIES IN NATO FORUM.

3. BRAITHWAITE RESPONDED THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF UK DRAFT WAS TO PUT CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON TABLE IN NATO TO FOCUS ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS ON ACTUAL CONSTRAINT LANGUAGE RATHER THAN ON PHILOSOPHY OF CONSTRAINTS. HMG IS NOT UNALTERABLY COMMITTED TO ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL OR LANGUAGE IN ITS PAPER AND HOPES THAT OTHER ALLIES WILL

TABLE AMENDMENTS, NEW PROPOSALS OR EVEN NEW DRAFTS.

4. UK DRAFT WAS INTENDED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO APPARENT DESIRE OF MOST EUROPEAN ALLIES TO HAVE PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS WITH WHICH THEY COULD BE ASSOCIATED AND ALSO TO BE RESPONSIVE TO WHAT UK THOUGHT WAS US DESIRE TO HAVE EASILY NEGOTIABLE CONSTRAINTS WHICH WOULD NOT SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD MORE IMPORTANT AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS.

5. WITH THESE PRINCIPLES IN MIND UK PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO BE INNOCUOUS AND SELF-VERIFYING. THUS, MOST IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT, I.E., AGREEMENT NOT TO INCREASE FORCES, WAS ONLY REFLECTIVE OF A POLITICAL REALITY. PARTIES NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS IN GOOD FAITH WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR FORCES DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

6. A KEY POINT IN UK FORMULA WAS THAT EUROPEAN ALLIES COULD ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH CONSTRAINTS. THIS WOULD MEET BENELUX AND GERMAN POLITICAL REQUIREMENT

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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USNMR SHAPE

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TO BE INCLUDED IN SOME WAY IN PHASE ONE OF MBFR.

7. BRAITHWAITE SAID HMG REALIZES THAT FORMULATION IN UK DRAFT ON AGREEMENT NOT TO INCREASE FORCES COULD BE MISINTERPRETED TO EFFECT FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. HMG FEELS THAT THIS IS A LANGUAGE PROBLEM AND THAT ALLIANCE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SATISFACTORY FORMULA THAT WOULD PRESERVE IDEA BUT NOT LIMIT FORCE IMPROVEMENTS.

8. BRAITHWAITE SAID THAT UK WILL NOT BE OBSTRUCTIONIST

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IN INSISTING ON ITS DRAFT BUT HMG FEELS THAT THE DRAFT

DOES MERIT DISCUSSION IN THE ALLIANCE.

9. WE DESCRIBED US PROPOSAL (REF B) IN GENERAL TERMS. BRAITHWAITE COULD ONLY RESPOND THAT IT APPEARED THAT US PROPOSAL WOULD BE VERY DETAILED AND MIGHT THEREFORE TAKE A LONG TIME TO NEGOTIATE IN NATO. HE NOTED THAT NATO WILL BE WORKING "FLAT OUT" TO COME UP WITH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL BY NEXT WEEK TO COUNTER SOVIET DRAFT. HE HOPED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON CONSTRAINTS ISSUE

WOULD NOT DELAY WORK ON FRAMEWORK PAPER.

10.SINCE US PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN PUT FORWARD IN NATO (REF C) WE WILL SEEK MORE SPECIFIC HMG COMMENTS SOONEST.

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